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ties power to order their expulsion, establishes a system of furnishing returns of aliens, and throws considerable responsibility on the masters of ships. "Undesirable" immigrants are defined as those who cannot show themselves in a position to obtain the means of *decently* supporting themselves and dependents, persons diseased in mind or body, if likely to become a charge upon the poor-rates or detrimental to the public, and criminals.

With spirited loyalty to his race Mr. Landa has endeavored to disprove the arguments used in support of this bill and has marshaled a number of facts to sustain his contention. Naturally the administration of such a law, where so much must be left to the discretion of the officials, may lead to serious abuses. Mr. Landa has given a number of cases, some of which might be closely paralleled in this country. The very first case to arise was one in which asylum was denied to shipwrecked sailors until the American consul appealed directly to the government. Then star-chamber proceedings were resorted to and the press agents were excluded until an order was secured for their admission. Families were torn asunder and some of the best immigrants were sent away on mere technicalities. In consequence, after a five years' trial, "the Aliens Act stands before the bar of public opinion anathematized almost by all, understood by few." That the future of the law must be different from its past is conceded by both the government and the opposition and both have introduced bills to that effect, but so far nothing has been accomplished. Mr. Landa confesses that some sort of regulation is necessary and his suggestions for a remedy of the existing law concern administrative details more than its fundamental principles.

DAVID Y. THOMAS

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

The Better Country. By DANA W. BARTLETT. Boston: C. M. Clark Publishing Co., 1911. Pp. 564. \$1.50 net.

The purpose of this book is to explain some of the methods and institutions (individual, municipal, state, and national) which are bettering human life. It is not intended to be an exhaustive study of all the uplift work of the nation, but rather illustrative of the methods employed and also suggestive of what more can be done. One seldom appreciates the manifold efforts at human betterment until they are passed in survey by such a work. It is a popular

beginning on the task suggested by Small (*General Sociology*, chap. 1), i.e., a concrete statement of the social achievement in the United States up to the present time. The book is illustrated and has an appendix and index.

As an illustration of the betterment-work surveyed by the book one could mention the efforts of the Immigration Bureau in medical inspection; the Bureau of Animal Industry; the Weather Bureau; the Patent Office; the Census Bureau; Agricultural Experiment Stations, and the Bureau of Education.

The chief merits of the book are: (1) it convinces the reader that efforts at betterment are numerous and effective; (2) it contains a mass of information; (3) it is highly optimistic, even though the shadows are recognized; (4) its evidence of the author's acquaintance with sound social and economic thinking; (5) its concreteness; (6) the accomplishment of its author's purpose.

The actual in society must be the basis for working toward what is desirable. An inventory of the existing is necessary, and this book is a popular contribution in this field.

SCOTT E. W. BEDFORD

The Negro in the New World. By SIR HARRY H. JOHNSTON. New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. 495. \$6.00.

Sir Harry Johnston is one of the foremost authorities upon the Negro today. His new book represents the twelfth volume he has written upon this subject. Previously he has dwelt upon the Negro in Africa; but now he has turned to the New World and has described the life of the Negro in slavery and in freedom both in North and in South America.

The major part of the book is given up to a study of Negro slavery in the New World—the West Indies and North and South America. The laws in the various colonies are quoted with great fulness, as are, also, the observations of such well-known travelers as Dr. R. Walsh in Spanish America, Captain J. G. Stedman in the West Indies, and Frederick Law Olmsted in the southern slave states. From this testimony Sir Harry Johnston draws conclusions contrary to the traditional ones of his English-speaking readers. He finds the Spanish and Portuguese, whom many of us have been brought up to think monsters of cruelty, the most kindly among the slaveholders. Their treatment of the Indians, he believes, was